



**NORTHEAST VALLEY
COALITION AGAINST**



METHAMPHETAMINE

Carefree • Cave Creek • Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation • Fountain Hills
Paradise Valley • Salt River-Pima Maricopa Indian Community • Scottsdale

NORTHEAST VALLEY COALITION AGAINST METHAMPHETAMINE

*We are inspired and working
toward a meth-free community*

Mission

The Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine will empower and engage the community to become meth-free through education, awareness and by providing access to resources.

Background

The Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine is a local effort that coordinates a community-based response to the methamphetamine problem. The Coalition includes the communities of Carefree, Cave Creek, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Fountain Hills, Paradise Valley, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Scottsdale.

Starting Out

Sixty participants attended the initial community meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2006 at Scottsdale Community College. Participants heard from Governor Napolitano's staff about the Arizona Anti-Meth Initiative and from panelists from the business, education, health care and law enforcement sectors about the impact of methamphetamines. Participants also discussed community strengths and brainstormed possible actions that could be taken by the new coalition.

The Coalition has continued to meet monthly since the April kickoff meeting with an average of 32 participants at each meeting. The Coalition created and adopted a mission and vision statement, determined a structure and operating protocol for the Coalition, and established a needs assessment subcommittee and a resource inventory subcommittee to complete the needs assessment. In October 2006, the Coalition created a steering committee to guide its efforts.

At each meeting, participants are invited to join the Coalition as a member who wants to stay informed of the coalition's progress. After the first year, there are now over 250 people on the coalition's mailing list with over 100 members.

On National Methamphetamine Awareness Day, November 30, 2006, the Coalition received a Certificate of Recognition from John Walters, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, for outstanding contributions to prevent methamphetamine use in the State of Arizona.



Financial Support

The Coalition received a \$20,000 phase one grant from the Governor's Office of Children, Youth and Families to form the coalition. Following the completion of the strategic planning process, the Coalition received a \$30,000 phase two grant, also from the Governor's Office, for implementation of the strategic plan. The Coalition also received a \$25,000 grant from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to implement the strategic plan.

The City of Scottsdale provides staff support to the Coalition's efforts as well as venues in which to hold monthly meetings.

Strategic Plan Development

The Coalition followed a community development process to build the coalition, raise community awareness, keep the media engaged, and involve as many participants as were interested in the planning, needs assessment and education process. In February 2007, the Coalition held two meetings to review the needs assessment results and to develop its strategic plan.





Key Findings from the Needs Assessment Process

- Addicts engage in a high rate of identity theft and fraud in the Northeast Valley to pay for their drug use.
- Female addicts are more likely to engage in fraud and identity theft to pay for their drug use.
- Male addicts commit a high number of burglaries in the Northeast Valley to pay for their meth use.
- Addicts' unpredictable and erratic behavior potentially increases the violence towards victims, law enforcement personnel and emergency services providers.
- Overall, Maricopa County has an average age of first-time use that is significantly earlier than the national average.
- There is no centralized, current or comprehensive collection of meth treatment and educational resource information accessible to Northeast Valley residents.

Five Key Strategies

- Educating the community on how to reduce the opportunity for meth users to commit specific crimes related to meth use.
- Engaging the law enforcement chiefs in Coalition communities to focus more attention on meth use and specific crimes.
- Increasing parent and adolescent awareness about adolescent meth use.
- Enhancing the awareness of schools and school districts about the problem of meth and the need for good data about meth use in the local schools.
- Ensuring that comprehensive and accurate information about treatment and education resources is available to those who need it.

The Coalition's Goals and Activities for 2007-2008

There are three subcommittees that were formed to implement the coalition's strategic plan.

Crime Impacts Subcommittee

Goal: Reduce the opportunities for meth users to commit identity theft, fraud and burglary.

PROJECT 1

Create educational collateral material with "10 things you can do" to protect yourself from identity theft, fraud and burglary.

PROJECT 2

Sponsor six shredding events throughout the Coalition communities.

PROJECT 3

Identify ways to eliminate the use of casinos for identity theft and fraud by meth users.

PROJECT 4

Identify ways to eliminate the use of hotels in Coalition communities for meth parties.

Goal: Engaging the law enforcement chiefs to focus more attention on meth use and specific crimes.

PROJECT 5

Hold meetings with Police Chiefs to discuss how their departments track, manage and prevent ID theft, fraud and burglary related to meth use.

Crime Impacts Subcommittee

Phil Riccio and Jarvis Qumyintewa, Co-Chairs

Contact:

Bruce Wall

BWall@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

(480) 312-7787



Youth Awareness Subcommittee

Goal: Eliminate meth use among youth under age 18.

PROJECT 6

Create, distribute and promote an anti-meth video for junior high and high school students.

PROJECT 7

Hold a Meth Awareness Day for Youth.

PROJECT 8

Conduct youth and parent focused town hall meetings with community members, representatives and leaders regarding meth use and available resources.

PROJECT 9

Identify best practices for drug prevention education in schools and document the prevention education efforts currently offered in Coalition community schools.

PROJECT 10

Identify best practices related to the use and effectiveness of drug testing in schools and document how drug testing is currently used in Coalition community schools.

Goal: Enhance awareness of schools and school districts about the problem of meth and the need for data about meth use in schools.

PROJECT 11

Meet with Arizona Criminal Justice Commission representatives to identify procedures for the Arizona Youth Survey and challenges that might limit participation.

PROJECT 12

Contact non-participating districts and private schools to identify and eliminate barriers to participating in the Arizona Youth Survey.

PROJECT 13

Explore the best times to conduct the youth survey. (i.e during AIMS testing)

Youth Awareness Subcommittee

Gina Durbin and Mary Ellen Tinsley, Co-Chairs

Contact:

Hugh McGill

HMCGill@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

(480) 312-7922

Resource Directory Subcommittee

Goal: Ensure that there is adequate, accessible and comprehensive information about available and affordable resources for meth education and treatment.

PROJECT 14
Create a Northeast Valley
resource directory including
Federal, State and County
resources on meth education
and treatment.

Resource Directory Subcommittee

Stephanie Kreiling and
Mark Lewis, Co-Chairs

Contact:

Valerie Kime Trujillo
VTrujillo@ScottsdaleAZ.gov
(480) 312-2464



STEERING COMMITTEE:

Gina Durbin, Cave Creek School District
Tom Ellis, Croft Workplace Drug Programs
Stephanie Kreiling, Community Bridges
Jarvis Qumyintewa, Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation
Phil Riccio, City of Scottsdale
Donald Santeo, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Mary Ellen Tinsley, Scottsdale Prevention Institute
Kate Zanon, Town of Fountain Hills

STAFF SUPPORT:

Brent Stockwell, Coalition Coordinator
Valerie Kime Trujillo, Resource Directory Coordinator
Karen Kurtz, Facilitator
Hugh McGill, Youth Awareness Coordinator
Danise Riley, Administrative Support
Sherry Van Parys, Administrative Support
Bruce Wall, Crime Impacts Coordinator
Shannon Wallace, Public Information Coordinator

Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine

3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov/safety/drugs

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This information is available in alternate format upon request.

AUGUST 2007